

[54] METHOD FOR SUPPLYING FOODSTUFF SAMPLES FOR MICROBIOLOGICAL TESTING

[75] Inventors: **Fritz-Peter Gork**, Hattersheim;
Klaus-Dieter Müller, Riedstadt;
Doris Schweitzer, Wallau, all of Fed.
Rep. of Germany

[73] Assignee: **Lufthansa Service GmbH**, Fed. Rep.
of Germany

[21] Appl. No.: **328,589**

[22] PCT Filed: **Mar. 29, 1988**

[86] PCT No.: **PCT/EP88/00261**

§ 371 Date: **Jan. 19, 1989**

§ 102(e) Date: **Jan. 19, 1989**

[87] PCT Pub. No.: **WO88/07710**

PCT Pub. Date: **Oct. 6, 1988**

[30] Foreign Application Priority Data

Mar. 31, 1987 [DE] Fed. Rep. of Germany 3710663

Jun. 23, 1987 [DE] Fed. Rep. of Germany 3720733

[51] Int. Cl.⁵ **C12Q 1/00; B25J 11/00**

[52] U.S. Cl. **435/31; 73/864.24;**
435/291; 901/44

[58] Field of Search 435/29, 31, 291;
73/864.24; 364/496; 901/44; 426/231

[56] References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,593,820 6/1986 Antonie et al. 901/44
4,720,463 1/1988 Farber et al. 435/291
4,757,437 7/1988 Nishimura 364/496

Primary Examiner—George Yeung

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Lowe, Price, Leblanc and
Becker

[57]

ABSTRACT

Methods for supplying a foodstuff sample for microbiological testing comprise supplying the sample in a plastic bag, adding physiological nutrient solution to the sample in a specified weight ratio, mechanically comminuting and homogenizing the contents of the bag, and removing a partial quantity of the contents of the bag by means of pipette via a filter as sample liquid. The methods further comprise injecting the same liquid onto at least one nutrient medium situated in a petri dish and inserting the injected petri dish into an incubator. In the comminution and homogenization of the contents of the bag, the bag is clamped shut and pressed between a fixed jaw and two jaws which oscillate alternately. In the injection of the nutrient medium, the sample liquid is injected in a spiral shape onto the nutrient medium. Additionally, a laboratory robot system is employed.

14 Claims, 1 Drawing Sheet

